Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that a plan of action has been prepared for removing the shortcomings pointed out by C&AG, which includes –

- Ensuring 100% utilisation of funds allocated for the scheme.
- Ensuring supply of food grains of Fair Average Quality.
- Supply of meals of prescribed calorie and protein content.
- Inspection of kitchens of service providers to check their adherence to hygiene and health standard.
- Use of double fortified salt in preparation of cooked mid-day meal.
- Revision of menu with a view to ensuring that sufficient leafy vegetables are added in preparing food items.
- Ensuring that Principals/Head of Schools verify that the food supplied by the service providers is as per the prescribed standards in terms of its quality and quantity and is served in sealed containers.
- Convening periodic meetings of the State Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee with a view to ensuring that the programme is implemented meticulously and desired results are attained in a time bound manner.

(c) and (d) The primary objective of the Mid Day Meal programme is to provide supplementary nutrition. Under this scheme, cooked mid-day meal of a nutritional value of 450 calories and 12 grams of protein is provided. Micronutrient deficiency is widespread among disadvantaged population. The guidelines of the scheme recommend that the mid-day meal should be complemented with appropriate interventions relating to micronutrient supplementation and de-worming through administration of (a) six monthly dose for de-worming and Vitamin-A supplementation, (b) weekly Iron and Folic-Acid supplement, Zinc and (c) other appropriate supplementation depending on common deficiencies found in the local area.

Punishable offence for harassment of school children

†2191. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the direction of Commission for Protection of Child Rights according to which the harassment of school children by their teachers in any form would be a punishable offence;

(b) whether Government have agreed to these directions; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to implement these directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, *inter alia* provides that "corporal punishment will be firmly excluded from the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

educational system". Corporal punishment is strictly prohibited, in schools run by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and Central Tibetan School Administration, which are under this Ministry.

Compulsory assessment of colleges and universities

2192. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a legislation to make assessment compulsory for colleges and universities so that they do not skip quality assessment of teachers, students, infrastructure and general academic environment;

(b) if so, by when a final decision for introducing the legislation is likely to be taken; and

(c) to what extent it would be beneficial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Scholarships to backward communities

2193. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started new scholarships for SCs/STs/OBCs/ minorities in the country, especially in Bihar and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken care that the scholarship is provided to the needy; and

(d) if so, the criteria adopted for checking it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVEOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have introduced new Central Sector Scholarship Schemes of Top Class Education for SC and ST students respectively from the academic year 2007-08 with the objective of encouraging meritorious SC and ST students for pursuing degree and post degree courses in identified institutions. The total family income of the student to be eligible for the scholarship from all sources should not exceed Rs.2.00 lakhs per annum. The Scholarship covers full tuition fees and other non-refundable dues in respect of Government/Government funded institutions. However, there is ceiling of Rs.2 lakhs per annum per beneficiary studying in identified private sector institutions and Rs.3.72 lakhs per annum per beneficiary undergoing training in identified private sector flying clubs for commercial pilot training on tuition fees and other non-refundable dues. Up to Rs.2200/- per month for living expenses (based on actuals), Rs.3000/- per annum for books and stationery and Rs.45,000/-